

Scranton Times-Tribune (1-14)

In Philly, protesters demand help for Dimock
By Joe McDonald (Staff Writer)
Published: January 14, 2012

Read more: <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/in-philly-protesters-demand-help-for-dimock-1.1257553#ixzz1jRIRNUCm>

PHILADELPHIA - With "Keep the Frack Out of My Water" signs and a bullhorn, natural gas fracking foes rallied on Logan Square in Philadelphia outside the Academy of Natural Sciences on Friday morning, hoping one of the speakers at the forum inside would get the federal government involved in providing drinking water to people in Dimock Twp. who blame drillers for contaminating their wells.

Whether Lisa Jackson, head of the Environmental Protection Agency, got the message was not immediately clear, though she was later asked by someone in the audience about the water in Dimock.

There was no response.

Out on the street, the protesters managed to hold onto their signs despite the biting winds and chant, among other things, "Lisa Jackson, take some action!"

Eleanor Dill, one of the first to arrive, said she came from a small town near Newark, N.J.

"There is really a bad situation with the water," she said. She said she was there not only to get drinking water to the people in Dimock but because there was a larger issue, fracking, which she said was "very harmful" to the environment.

Rebecca Roter, a Brooklyn, Pa., resident who lives about 10 minutes from Dimock in Susquehanna County, was one of the speakers on the bullhorn.

"We are the people whose common good is being destroyed," she said.

"... Our streams, our rivers, our watersheds (are) being poisoned by drilling and fracking."

In the crowd was a sign that listed the various chemicals that had been found in water samples from the Sautner family, ranging from acetone to arsenic and uranium.

Another sign said the wells in Dimock and the people who drink from them are all victims of hydraulic fracturing of Marcellus Shale and the "chemical cocktail" it produces.

State officials contend Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. caused methane to seep from faulty gas wells into 18 Dimock water supplies, but Cabot does not agree with the state.

Even so, Cabot had been delivering bulk and bottled water to the affected residents for years. The company stopped the deliveries on Dec. 1 when it got approval from the state.

As the morning rush-hour traffic passed through Logan Square, Bill Marino, one of the protesters, took a drag on a cigarette while holding the "Keep the Frack out of My Water" sign.

Mr. Marino said he was one of the Occupy Scranton people who protested outside the Lackawanna County Courthouse before their tents were taken down a few weeks ago.

"We came down (from Scranton), five in one car," Mr. Marino said.

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